

Publisher
Michael Coffey

Executive Editor
John Lelean

Contributors
Jim Arthur BSc Agric.
John Campbell

Advertising Production
Linda Baker

Advertisement Manager
Mark Pierson

0255 507526
Fax: 0255 508483

**INSTITUTE OF
EUROPEAN
GOLF COURSE
MANAGERS**



the Golf Course

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RÉSUMÉ



FRENCH

Dans ce numéro, nous présentons deux nouveaux terrains de golf, l'un au coeur même de l'Angleterre o] un fabricant de matériel électronique de Daventry a construit un club privé intéressant sur un terrain qu'il avait acheté à l'origine pour faire courir ses chiens et l'autre, sur les rives d'un célèbre lac écossais.

Hellidon Lakes, dans le Warwickshire, a été construit sur le dessin de David Snell, ancien joueur de tournois de golf, qui, jusqu'à l'an dernier, était le golfeur professionnel du Lindrick Golf Club.

Le terrain sera jouable à la fin de 1990 et sera doté d'un pavillon avec vue sur le grand lac. Contrairement à la plupart des clubs privés de Grande-Bretagne, le 'clubhouse' comprendra également 20 chambres pour membres et invités. Le club a été ouvert officiellement le mois dernier par Bobby Charlton, le footballeur international anglais.

En Ecosse, les travaux ont commencé, sur les rives du Loch Lomond, sur un parcours de 36 trous, dessiné par le professionnel de compétition américain, Tom Weiskopf, et l'architecte Jay Morrish. Construit dans un parc boisé, le terrain appartient au Chef de l'une des plus grandes familles écossaises, le Clan Colquhoun.

Il est prévu que ce nouveau complexe de golf deviendra l'un des plus beaux parcours d'Ecosse. Le parcours High Road ouvrira le premier; le parcours Low Road sera construit plus tard.

Jim Arthur, qui contribue @ notre revue et qui est membre du R & A Greenkeeping Panel, discute ce mois-ci des problèmes d'usure sur les terrains de golf. D'après lui, le nombre croissant de golfeurs 'd'un jour', qui n'appartiennent pas à un club, cause plus d'usure aux tees, aux greens et aux fairways que les entreteneurs de parcours n'arrivent à réparer.

Mr. Arthur aimerait voir une restriction du nombre de parties jouées et l'interdiction des chariots. Il reconnaît que ce n'est pas le chariot qui cause les dommages au gazon mais les golfeurs qui suivent comme des moutons la même piste de trou en trou.

Nous faisons part aussi de la première conférence scientifique pour l'étude des effets du type actuel de club et de balle de golf ainsi que des problèmes qui affectent les golfeurs au niveau médical. Cette conférence doit se tenir cet été à l'université de St. Andrews.



SPANISH.

En este número tratamos sobre dos nuevos campos de golf, uno en el corazón de Inglaterra, en donde un fabricante de equipo electrónico ha construido un interesante club privado en un terreno que originalmente adquirió para que hicieran ejercicio sus perros; el otro, en las orillas de un famoso lago escocés.

Hellidon Lakes en Warwickshire se ha construido según un diseño de David Snell, que una vez fue jugador en competiciones, y quien hasta el año pasado era el jugador de golf profesional del club en Lindrick Golf Club.

Será posible jugar en el campo a partir de su inauguración a fines de 1990, con una casa-club que da al lago mayor. A diferencia de la mayoría de clubes privados de Gran Bretaña, la casa-club también incluye 20 dormitorios para socios e invitados. El mes pasado, el futbolista internacional Bobby Charlton inauguró oficialmente el club.

En Escocia, se han iniciado los trabajos en un campo de 36 hoyos en las orillas del lago Lomond según el diseño del jugador profesional de competiciones, Tom Weiskopf y el arquitecto Jay Morrish. Construido dentro de un parque poblado de árboles, el terreno es propiedad del Jefe de una de las familias líderes en Escocia, el Clan Colquhoun.

Se espera que este nuevo complejo de golf se convierta en uno de los mejores campos en Escocia. El campo High Road abrirá primero y luego se construirá el campo Low Road.

Nuestro colaborador, Jim Arthur, miembro del panel de mantenimiento de "green" R & A, trata este mes sobre los problemas del desgaste en los campos de golf. Piensa que el enorme aumento en el juego por parte de los jugadores de un solo día, que no pertenecen a un club, causa a los "tees", "greens" y calles más daño del que pueden controlar los encargados.

Al Sr. Arthur le gustaría ver una restricción en el número de partidos que se juegan, así como una prohibición de carritos sobre ruedas. Acepta que no es el carrito el que causa el daño al césped, sino los jugadores, los cuales al igual que ovejas, siguen las mismas rutas de un agujero a otro.

También informamos sobre el anuncio del primer congreso científico para estudiar el efecto del diseño actual del palo y de la pelota, así como de las condiciones médicas que afectan a los jugadores de golf, a efectuarse en la Universidad de St. Andrews este verano.



GERMAN

In dieser Ausgabe heben wir besonders zwei neue Golfplätze hervor, einer im Herzen Englands, wo ein Daventry Elektronikhersteller einen interessanten Privatklub auf Land gebaut hat, das er ursprünglich kaufte, um seine Hunde spazierenzuführen, der andere an den Ufern eines berühmten schottischen Sees. Hellidon Lakes, in Warwickshire, ist nach einem Entwurf von David Snell, eines ehemaligen Turniergolfspielers gebaut worden, der bis letztes Jahr der Berufsgolfspieler des Klubs im Lindrick Golfklub war.

Der Golfplatz mit einem Klubhaus, das den Hauptsee überblickt, wird Ende 1990 für das Spiel freigegeben. Im Unterschied zu den meisten Privatklubs in Britannien wird das Klubhaus ebenfalls 20 Schlafzimmer für Mitglieder und Gäste umfassen. Der Klub wurde letzten Monat offiziell vom englischen internationalen Fußballer Bobby Charlton eröffnet.

In Schottland haben die Arbeiten an einem 36-Loch-Golfplatz an den Ufern des Lomond Sees nach dem Entwurf des amerikanischen Tourenberufsspielers Tom Weiskopf und des Architekten Jay Morrish begonnen. Das im Inneren eines bewaldeten Parks liegende Land gehört dem Oberhaupt einer der führenden Familien Schottlands, des Clan Colquhoun.

Man erwartet, daß dieser neue Golfkomplex einer der feinsten Golfplätze in Schottland wird. Der High Road Golfplatz wird zuerst eröffnet, und der Low Road Golfplatz wird später gebaut.

Mitarbeiter Jim Arthur, Mitglied des R. & A. Grünverwaltergremiums, bespricht diesen Monat die Probleme der Abnutzung bei Golfplätzen. Er glaubt, daß die riesige Spielzunahme durch die Golfer mit einer Tageskarte, die keinem Klub angehören, eine größere Abnutzung bei den Tees, den Rasen und den Fairways verursacht, als die Grünverwalter bewältigen können.

Mr. Arthur sähe es gern, wenn die Zahl der gespielten Runden begrenzt würde und man auch die Caddys mit Rädern verbannte. Er gibt zu, daß es nicht das Caddy ist, das den Schaden beim Rasen verursacht, sondern die Golfspieler, die wie Schafe derselben Route von Loch zu Loch folgen.

GREENSIDE COMMENT

Some four months have passed since the R & A Document 'The Way Forward' was published and widely distributed to golf clubs in Britain.

It is perhaps surprising that despite its depth of circulation and the resultant press coverage, the amount of discussion in the place where it matters - the Club Committee, has been somewhat meagre. Enquiries among a number of golf clubs has produced the reply that the document has been received, but they have not as yet debated the issues.

Where clubs have grasped the nettle, there has been, what could be described as a jaundiced view expressed over the section entitled - The Club Committee Structure, which probably reinforces the findings of the Greenkeeping Panel that the majority of golf club committees in the UK are old fashioned, resistant to change, using committee membership as a means of achieving a place in the hierarchy.

Few clubs can claim to have a streamlined management structure. Although there is a trend to appoint full time Manager/Secretaries, the majority soldier on with a willing retired member, whose responsibilities are rarely matched by the degree of authority to carry them out.

Day to day decisions often become the subject of debate at the next full meeting of these autocratic and autonomous bodies, whose principle aim is to keep capital expenditure within the limits of annual subscriptions, adjusted to the increase in the retail price index.

No committee relishes calling an extraordinary meeting to propose a subscription increase, because they have to show cause for its justification increase. Attend any such meeting and it will be packed with a majority of the club elders who are quite content to see their day's out on a course shortened to suit their game at a price per round about equal to the tea and sandwiches bought in the club-house.

Fortunately not all British golf is dominated by this malaise. A glance around one's own area of play will spot the club whose foresight has already led to major investment and improvement. These courses will reap the benefit at the expense of their laggardly neighbours.

Golf, in stock market terms is on a high. Now is the time to improve the assets in the private club, both on the course, the equipment, facilities and staff development. New courses are coming on stream at an increasing rate, all with commercial

backing. It from this quarter, competition for membership will emerge. Those that cannot match value for money golf will be returning their fairways to grazing sheep.

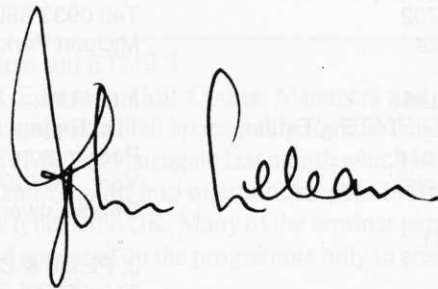
Turning to the main theme of 'The Way Forward', mention must be made of the condemnation of our most prolific grass species - the dreaded poa annua. Committees who have studied the relevant parts of this document have commented that much has been said about the encouragement of bent/fescue greens on the championship courses, the majority being links or heathland where such grasses can thrive, albeit by using approved cultural techniques.

Where, they ask, is there any advice within the document for the majority of inland golf courses, many built 70 to 80 years ago to the approved specifications at the time, designed by names that are now legend in terms of golf course architecture.

These are the golf courses close to centres of population where pressure from increased play by both members and green fee paying visitors has stretched turf maintenance to the limit. Although a bent/poa green surface is possible, to find fescues, is like looking for the four leafed clover.

Whilst accepting that the R & A Greenkeeping Panel are expressing the purists view it must not be forgotten that the backbone of golf is now played, summer and winter on less than ideal courses. We would all like mud free fairways, firm fast greens and a close sward for the tees, but the answer is not the elimination of Poa Annua nor is it practicable or possible, though reduction should be the aim.

Perhaps the next edition of 'The Way Forward' could turn its attention to those of us who are just as keen as the privileged links golfers, but are limited in our weekend pursuits to inland courses built on less than ideal sites, with or without the fescues.



EDITOR

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS

CONSTRUCTOR MEMBERS

Golf Landscapes Ltd.,
Ashwells Road,
Bentley, Brentwood,
Essex. CM15 9SR
Tel: 0277 373720
Tlx: 995215 GOLF LG
Peter Dunning

CDC Golf & Leisure
Developments Ltd.,
Chapel Works,
Waldringfield,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk. IP12 4PT
Tel: 0473 36791
P. Oldman

J. D. Greasley Limited,
Windridge,
Station Road,
Rearsby, Leicester.
LE7 8YY
Tel: 0664 424770
John Greasley

Land Unit Construction,
Folly Farm, Hanslope,
Milton Keynes. MK19 7BX
Tel: 0908 510414
Tlx: 311954 MIDDAGK
Bob Blythe

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd.,
Homestead Farm, Ringwood Road,
Three Legged Cross, Wimbourne,
Dorset. BH21 6QY
Tel: 0202 822372 Fax: 0202 826447
Brian Pierson

Blakedown Sports,
Beechfield Cottage,
Beckwithshaw,
Harrogate, HS3 1QL
Tel: 0423 509820
Mr L Chandler

Sportworks Ltd.,
Warehouse Road,
Montrose,
Angus.
DD10 9E5
Tel: 041 772 2383
C. V. Baxter

Southern Golf Ltd.,
9, Old Square,
Warwick,
CV34 4RA
Tel: 0926 400985
Tlx: 312340 SOGO
Ray Wilson

Land Form,
Beechfield Farm,
42, Moor Lane,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.
SK9 6AP
Tel: 0625 533996
N. Brierley



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Banks Horticultural Products Ltd.,
3, Angel Court,
Dairy Yard,
High Street,
Market Harborough,
Leics. LE16 7NL
Tel: 0858 64346
Tim Banks

British Seed Houses Ltd.,
37, Five Mile Drive,
Oxford. OX2 8HT
Tel: 0865 510 702
Jonathan Franks

Toro Irrigation Ltd.,
Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate,
Christchurch Road,
Ringwood, Hants.
BH24 3SD
Tel: 04254 6261
Peter Roberts

Patrick Tallack Esq.,
Egham Lodge,
24 Bridge Street,
Leatherhead, Surrey.
KT22 8EA Tel: 0372 379592

Irrigation & Slurry Services,
Louvain,
Quavey Road,
Redlynch,
Wilts. SP5 2HH
Tel: 0725 20377
Gary Holden-Parker

Mommersteeg International,
Station Road,
Wellingborough,
Northants. NN9 5NT
Tel: 0933 680674
Michael Perkins

Inturf Ltd.,
11b, Regent Street,
Pocklington,
York. YO4 2AE
Derek Edwards

J. Picard & Co (Seed Merchants) Ltd.,
Third Floor,
Central House,
32/66 High Street,
London. E15 2PD
Tel: 01 519 2626
Mr P. Stovin

Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies PLC,
Nacton Road,
Ipswich. IP3 9QG
Tel: 0473 712222
John Wilson

Ebenazar Mears & Sons Ltd.,
Cumberland House,
Antersells Road,
Byfleet, Surrey. KT14 7AZ
Tel: 093 23 45616
Keith Speller

Wettern Brothers PLC,
Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.
Tel: 0622 761281
John Wilson

Rolawn Ltd.,
Elvington, York.
YO4 5AA Tel: 0904 85406
Robert Laycock

Wright Rain Ltd.,
Crow Arch Lane,
Ringwood, Hants. BH24 1PA
Tel: 04254 2291
Norman Murphy



BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS

As the new season of golf approaches it is a particularly opportune moment to reflect on the events of the year and the steady advance being made by golf as a sport and the effect it will have on our profession. Many more people will be playing golf this year and it is important that the role of the golf course manager and head greenkeeper are understood and appreciated. The IEGCM can help to do this by better and more effective use of public relations.

The main objective in our effort will be to accurately convey the facts about the course manager's activities. The many golf events now televised bring to the attention of several millions of people the attractive environment of a golf course. By the use of the media with well targeted press releases and an expansion of the contact with the golfing media the IEGCM will be attempting to accomplish a much better understanding of how the golf course manager works.

The understanding we seek however, will not be gained in a short time. Despite the desire for instant results the way forward towards improving the awareness of fact regarding the golf course manager is a long term one. Somewhere along the way we can expect to meet the occasional setback. Many in our profession will have been subjected to unwarranted criticism for a number of reasons. Much of this should be and can be countered with relevant and forceful facts. However, sometimes this is not always possible or even wise because of heat of the moment argument, circumstances or lack of access to the right sort of information at the time. This does not mean that golf course managers and head greenkeepers should adopt a head-in-the-sand posture towards criticism.

The IEGCM and its officials will strive hard towards an effective relationship with the press, golf club officers and organisations involved in golf. Our aim also will be to provide members with continuing back up service in order to enhance the overall atmosphere in which they can achieve professional success. This path towards a better understanding and a higher image in the golfing community will not come overnight. It will only be achieved by a strong resolve, a desire to succeed through working together as golf course managers and by membership of the IEGCM which is already bringing together the many disciplines involved in the golf courses of Europe.

IEGCM, the Golf Course and ETME 3

The principals and committee of the Institute of European Golf Course Managers and the publisher of the Golf Course magazine wish to announce that their sponsorship for ETME 3 has been withdrawn. This decision was taken during ETME 2 at Harrogate last month which in the opinion of the IEGCM received limited support and brought into question the possibility of running a highly successful trade exhibition of this type in the UK. Many of the seminar papers presented had little relevance to UK conditions and appeared on the programme only to ensure reciprocal invitations to speak in other parts of the world.

With our future looking towards Europe the Institute and the Golf Course magazine are currently involved in discussions that offer more realistic opportunities on the Continent and which are aimed at bringing together all those involved in the development, construction and management of golf courses.

OUT AND ABOUT

CUSHMAN MOWERS IN NEW CATALOGUE

The newest catalogue covering the full line of Cushman R Front Line Mowers has been published by Cushman, Inc.

The full-colour catalogue covers the 808 and 809 gas-powered, liquid-cooled engine models, the 804 air-cooled gas engine Front Line and the 806 and 807 diesel-powered models. All models can be equipped with either 60-inch or 72-inch mower decks, which have pin-adjustable mounts for eight different mowing height positions.

The catalogue also illustrates the new Cushman Grass Caddy attachment with special Top Flow deck for positive pick-up of clippings and debris.

Also shown is the Cushman Core Destroyer attachment, and the full range of accessories for the Front Line tractors, including snowblower, snow blade, high-output heater/defroster for liquid-cooled models, ROPS and two cab enclosures, blower, flail mower and tine rake de-thatcher.

For a free copy of the new Cushman Front Line Mower and Accessories catalogue see your local Cushman dealer.



THE VICTA RYAN CHANGEOVER

Ryan turfcare equipment will no longer be handled by Victa (UK) Ltd, after July. Ransomes the new owners of Ryan, will arrange their own distribution.

Victa's Managing Director, Bill Brooks said, "To ensure that our customers are not inconvenienced, we have negotiated with Ransomes for spare parts to be available from our dealers until June 1991. Every effort will be made to make the transition as smooth as possible.

For the few months, until the change over, Victa is still very actively involved in promoting the Ryan machines.

KEITH CLEVERLY - A TRAGIC LOSS

It is with sadness we report the untimely and tragic death of Keith Cleverly, one of the greenkeeping profession's most ardent supporters, a man who inspired enthusiasm from not only those he worked with, but all within the turf grass industry. To many, including the staff of The Golf Course, Keith was a valued friend as well as a business associate, an additional reason for the sadness felt in the departure of someone so young at the bloom of his career.



Keith joined ICI in the early 1970's and began his career in one of the development trials teams based at Jealott's Hill, the ICI Agrochemicals Research Station. His potential was soon noticed and in the late 70's a successful commercial career started as a technical sales representative for ICI Agrochemicals UK Sales in the Bedford area where he made many friends within the agricultural community.

It was in the amenity and public health business that Keith Cleverly really made his mark. In 1983 he launched a new business venture, ICI Professional Products. Within six years this department grew rapidly under his stewardship to become leading suppliers of pesticides, fertilizers and pest control products, to the amenity turf industry.

Keith was also involved in many industry committees with the unselfish aim of raising the standards and highlighting the valuable contribution that these, then 'Cinderella' industries, could contribute to the overall pesticide market.

In February 1989 Keith won the promotion

he so justly deserved, leaving a healthy UK Professional Products business to develop the European markets for ICI Public Health. Unfortunately he was unable to meet his new challenge as, tragically, within one month of taking up the appointment, he was taken ill. Despite two major operations, his determination still showed through. Sadly Keith's brave fight, which was an inspiration to us all, ended peacefully on Saturday 13th January.

Keith Cleverly only 37, will be missed by us all, both in business and socially particularly on the golf course where he was a determined and capable competitor. Our thoughts and sympathies are extended to his wife Barbara and his family.

KUBOTA HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW 40hp TRACTOR...

...it has integral power steering as standard and is particularly suited to turf maintenance needs in the golf, sports grounds and local authority markets.

The L3250's additional horse-power, heavy duty dual clutch and gearbox provides the extra power required for turf maintenance on banks and inclines, using the vertidrain or larger gang mower units. The improved linkage geometry also provides the operator with more than 100lb additional lift capacity.

The Kubota L3250 is lightweight giving less ground pressure and ideal for golf courses using special smooth profile turf tyres.

The mechanical shuttle transmission offers 8 forward and 7 reverse gears and creep speed as standard for vertidrain operations. The partially synchronised transmission enables the operator to bring the tractor up to full speed quickly and easily for road travel.



BAGCC - COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN BRIAN PIERSON

The occasion of my election as Chairman of the British Association of Golf Course Construction provides me with a reason - or excuse to look back on 25 years of Golf Course Construction and to compare conditions at the start with those which exist nowadays.

It may come as a surprise that today there is less divergence of opinion between the main architects and contractors on basic construction than there was at the start of the golf course boom of the mid sixties.

It was then the exception rather than the rule for Architects to specify that greens were built on underdrained stone carpets. Certainly most specifications stipulated the use of local soil topped with 2" of seed-bed compost!

Greens were built in isolation from their environments and the imaginative marrying-in of greens with wide gently contoured surrounds was almost unknown. There was none of the current emphasis on keeping constructional machinery away from vulnerable and very important approaches.

Some specifiers were still advising the use of perennial ryegrass for fairways and only minimal attention was given to construction and design.

What a contrast today! There is almost universal agreement that both greens and

tees must be built on drainage rafts, properly blinded and with a uniform imported sandy soil root zone two mix.

Often entire courses from greens to rough are sown with basically the same fescue/bend seeds mixture, variations occurring only regarding seed rates and perhaps the use of cheaper strains for the rough.

Of course it costs a great deal more to build a golf course today than 25 years ago - from which time there are however plenty of examples of quite satisfactory courses being built for less than £10,000. This is not only due to inflation, but much more to higher standards and more elaborate specifications, including full automatic irrigation.

However, a word of warning may be appropriate. If the need for more golf courses is to be met economically (which does not mean building cheap, bad courses) then money must not be wasted in enormously expensive earth moving operations. Nor must we overly rely on extensive water features, to create character.

Contractors have to build to architects specifications and none of us should be inveigled into accepting constructional standards which have no relevance to our climatic and soil conditions.

Sand greens! Will they ever work!

We, the contractors, have the experience and skill to make good courses to suit our Northern European conditions. It is depressing when inexperienced clients opt

for much more expensive specifications quite needlessly, just because they think if they pay much more they will necessarily get a much better golf course.

The need for more courses is not arguable. How to produce them is, but we should, I feel, be thinking far more about providing for the beginner golfer because if he starts on something better than golf in a field, I feel that the long term future of golf will be in much safer hands.

FRANCE HOSTS GOLF COURSE CONFERENCE AT DEAUVILLE

The French Federation of Golf are to sponsor the first International Salon of Golf Course Maintenance and construction to be held at the Parc des Espositions at Lisieux, near Deauville from 24th-26th November.

The exhibition and accompanying conference is expected to attract over 100 stands. The conference hall is large enough to house 600 delegates and there will be dual French/English translation facilities.

At the same time the French Golf Greenkeepers Association will hold their 5th meeting of members.

Deauville is an ideal venue for the event as the heart of Normandy has become one of the leading areas of France for the expansion of golf. New courses have recently opened at St. Julien, St. Gratien and Caen.

J.D. Greasley

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SCIENCE, MATHS AND MEDICINE INVESTIGATE THE GAME OF GOLF

Golf is to come under the eye of the scientists, physicians and psychologists at the First World Scientific Congress of Golf to be held at the University of St. Andrews this summer.

Already on the agenda of the expected 21 nation conference are studies in swing techniques, the psychology of the successful golfers, club and ball design, and bio-mechanical analysis of the strains and stresses exerted on the golfer's back.

Also to be discussed is the aerodynamic lift and drag of golf balls and the physical principles governing the swing mechanism on the long drive from the tee.

Those who have studied the physiological principles of "The Inner Golfer", know there is far more to shooting a par 4 in level figures than two shots to the green and two putts. How many of us have been told it is all in the mind?

You know the formula, relax, no tension in the arms, slow back swing, down and through the ball. As one golf psychologist says, "Back, wait - hit".

Similar, if less ambitious schemes to unravel the mysteries of the golf swing by a mathematical and scientific approach have not been very rewarding. Those of us who have been around the game for some time, might also remember the famous "Button Boys", the elite band of budding young professionals who were subjected to intense isolated coaching in a bid to turn them into super-stars.

* How many can remember today who they were or what they achieved?

However, the R & A who are reported to be sponsoring the congress to the tune of £25,000 are supporting the five day event because they want to find out, amongst other things, the effects of modern improvements in golf ball manufacture and club design with special reference to course architecture.

We hear Karsten Solheim has accepted an invitation, an excellent opportunity for him to explain his aerodynamic approach to the manufacture of Ping clubs. It has been reported that an aspect of his research was to drive at speed with a club head out of the car window.

The Director of the Congress, Martin Farally, who is also the head of recreation at St. Andrew University says, "The primary aim is to encourage and exchange ideas among scientists, golf course architects, coaches and physicians as well as those who play the game at all levels".

In the last few years we have seen balls that go further, cut free, slice resistant, illuminated for play in the dark and others guaranteed to impart more back spin.

Clubs now bear little resemblance to the spoons, niblicks and brassies with hickory shafts used by Taylor, Braid and Vardon. In little less than a decade we have been introduced to carbon and graphite shafts, metal heads for persimmon, heel and toe irons and copper beryllium as the present ultimate for performance.

To go even better, the Japanese have now introduced the Yonex range, where a set of irons and three woods will give little change out of £2,000.

Perhaps it is time golf was subjected to the scientific approach, otherwise the next step will be the electronically guided laser putter, with the accuracy of an Exocet missile. We already have one member in my club who putts like that - just imagine 50 more!

The Congress takes place July 9-13, registration by the 1st July, at St. Andrews University, fee £130.

* *For the record they were Brian Barnes, Tommy Horton, Mike Ingham, Iain Clark and Alan Ibberson.* J.E.L.

COLLINGTREE PARK PREPARES FOR TAKE-OFF

Collingtree Park Golf Club, the UK's newest five star tournament golf resort due to open in May has appointed John Cook from Henley as resident professional.

Still active as a professional player, his most recent successes include winning the 1989 Hennessy Cognac Clubs Championships in Sardinia and the 1988 Southern Club Professionals Championship.

One of the prime objectives of Collingtree Park is to offer business people a high standard of all-round service. John is particularly impressed by the use of golf buggies, just one aspect of the all-inclu-

sive package members will receive.

"It is an innovative idea which I have not come across at any other British golf course," he says. John will set up and organise the complex's unique Golf Academy, the most sophisticated golf practice facility in Europe, with a floodlit covered 16-bay covered driving range three challenging practice holes - two par four and one par three; a sand bunker and an immaculate putting green.

There is also indoor video to record and analyse members' playing techniques and a computerised custom-fit club centre to enable golfers to select the correct equipment for their game.

NEW TURF CONSULTANT

A new turf consultant has joined the staff of Inter Seeds Ltd., the amenity grass seed and wild flower seed specialists. Mrs Jennifer Waterfield will soon be seen around the South East of England offering help and advice.

Jennifer, joins Inter Seeds Ltd. from a major fertiliser company and her role will be to advise local authorities, landscape architects, landscape contractors, turf growers, sports clubs and golf clubs on the correct choice and use of grasses, wild flowers, fertilisers and biodegradable erosion control matting.



Jennifer Waterfield, Inter Seeds new turf consultant